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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, CT
SUBJECT: FIVE NATION JURIST COMMISSION REPORT ON CAE

REF: STATE 214657

1. SUMMARY: [illegible]SSOUPHA NDIAYE, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION OF AFRICAN LAWYERS INVESTIGATING MASSACRES IN CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 16 IN DAKAR SUMMARIZING THE REPORT'S FINDINGS. CAE PRESIDENTIAL LEGAL COUNSELOR PRESENTED A REBUTTAL DURING A QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD. THE CONFERENCE WAS WELL ATTENDED BY LOCAL PRESS. REPRESENTATIVES OF AFRICAN, SOVIET, FRENCH, AND AMERICAN EMBASSIES WERE ALSO PRESENT. END SUMMARY.

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2. MR. NDI[illegible] SOME LENGTH DETAILED THE COMMISSIONS'S

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METHODOLGOY, NOTING PARTICULARLY THE LARGE CROSS SECTION OF THE POPULATIN WITH WHICH COMMISSION MEMBERS SPOKE DURING THEIR TEN-DAY STAY IN BANGUI. HE THEN WITHOUT COMMENTARY PRESENT A HARD-HITTING SUMMARY OF THE COMMISSION'S FINDINGS:
--THAT MASSACRES HAD INDEED TAKEN PLACE;
--THAT EMPEROR BOKASSA ALMOST CERTAINLY PARTICIPATED IN THE MASSACRES OF APRIL 29 AND THE KILLINGS DEFINITELY TOOK PLACE UNDER HIS ORDERS:
--THAT THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF WAS CERTAINLY A PARTICIPANT AND MAY HAVE PERSONALLY KILLED SOME OF THE YOUTH;
--THAN AN ESTIMATED 100 YOUTH WERE KILLED BY ASPHYXIATION AND SHOOTINGS; BLUDGEONING AND MULILATION TOOK PLACE;
--THAT THE VICTIMSWERE BURIED IN MASS GRAVES OR THROWN INTO THE RIVER.

3. A PERSON WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS BOKASSA'S LEGAL COUNSELOR TOOK THE FLOOR DURING THE QUESTION PERIOD AND LAUNCHED A COUNTER CONFERENCE. HE SPENT THE MAJORITY OF HIS RIPOSTE ARGUING THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THT PRESIDENT BOKASSA HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE MASSACRES. HE ALSO QUESTIONED THE VALIDITY OF THE REPORT, NOTED THE SUPPORT GIVEN TO BOKASSA'S REGIME BY A MANIFESTO SIGNED BY 200 EXPATRIATES AND PUBLISHE IN PARIS, AND EXPRESSED HIS ASTONISHMENT THAT A DOCUMENT INTENDED FOR CHIEFS OF STATE SHOULD BE PUBLICLY DISCUSSED.

4. NDIAYE RESPONDED THAT THE REPORT CAREFULLY SAID THAT BOKASSA'S PARTICIPATION WAS ALMOST CERTAIN ("QUASI-CERTAINE"). NDIAYE POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMISSION'S APPROACH WAS NOT THAT OF A TRAIL LAWYER BUT INVOLVED A CAREFUL SCIENTIFIC EFFORT TO CROSS CHECK ALL EVIDENCE.
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5. BOTH NDIAYE AND BOKASSA'S COUNSELOR REFERRED TO EVIDENCE PURPORTEDLY HELD BY THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WHOSE RESIDEN WAS ADJACENT TO THE PRISON. NDIAYE AND THE PRESIDENTIAL COUSLEOR BOTH SAID THAT HIS REPORTEDLY FIRM EVIDENCE HAD NOT BEEN CONFIRMED.

6. IN RINGING EDITORIALS IN THE DAILY LE SOLEIL OF AUGUST 17 BARA DIOUF, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, AND HAMADOUN TOURE, AFRICAN AFFAIRS EDITOR, PRAISED THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AND CON-

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DEMNED BOKASSA AND LIKE REGIMES IN AFRICA. DIOUF COMMENTED THAT SINCE THE HOLOCAUST TOOK PLACE UNDER BOKASSA'S INSTRUCTIONS AND WITH HIS COMPLICITY. THIS WAS SUFFICIENT TO BANISH HIM FOR ETERNITY. AFRICA MUST STOP BY ITS SILENCE BEING THE ACCOMPLICE OF ALL THE BOKASSAS EXISTING OR TO COME. TOURE NOTED THAT AFRICA MUST ACT SO THAT NO ONE CAN USE THE EXCUSE OF STATE SECURITY TO SET UP MASSACRES. HE CALLED FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY REUNION OF THE OAU TO EXAMINE THE RESULTS OF THE BANGUI MASSACRES.

7. INVOLVEMENT OF ZAIRIAN ARMY. ASKED BY JOURNALISTS ABOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE ZAIRIAN ARMY, MR. NDIAYE AFFIRMED THAT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE ZAIRIAN ARMY IN THESE EVENTS WAS VERIFIED AND PROVED BY NUMEROUS SOLDIERS KILLED OR ARRESTED AND IDENTIFIED AS SUCH, ACCORDING THE NUMEROUS TESTIMONIES.
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